



# A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail

By Bill Bryson

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**A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail** By Bill Bryson

**Soon to be a major motion picture starring Robert Redford and Nick Nolte.**

The Appalachian Trail trail stretches from Georgia to Maine and covers some of the most breathtaking terrain in America—majestic mountains, silent forests, sparkling lakes. If you're going to take a hike, it's probably the place to go. And Bill Bryson is surely the most entertaining guide you'll find. He introduces us to the history and ecology of the trail and to some of the other hardy (or just foolhardy) folks he meets along the way—and a couple of bears. Already a classic, *A Walk in the Woods* will make you long for the great outdoors (or at least a comfortable chair to sit and read in).

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## **A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail** By Bill Bryson Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

#### Amazon.com Review

Bill Bryson has made a living out of traveling and then writing about it. In *The Lost Continent* he re-created the road trips of his childhood; in *Neither Here nor There* he retraced the route he followed as a young backpacker traversing Europe. When this American transplant to Britain decided to return home, he made a farewell walking tour of the British countryside and produced *Notes from a Small Island*. Once back on American soil and safely settled in New Hampshire, Bryson once again hears the siren call of the open road--only this time it's a trail. The Appalachian Trail, to be exact. In *A Walk in the Woods* Bill Bryson tackles what is, for him, an entirely new subject: the American wilderness. Accompanied only by his old college buddy Stephen Katz, Bryson starts out one March morning in north Georgia, intending to walk the entire 2,100 miles to trail's end atop Maine's Mount Katahdin.

If nothing else, *A Walk in the Woods* is proof positive that the journey *is* the destination. As Bryson and Katz haul their out-of-shape, middle-aged butts over hill and dale, the reader is treated to both a very funny personal memoir and a delightful chronicle of the trail, the people who created it, and the places it passes through. Whether you plan to make a trip like this one yourself one day or only care to read about it, *A Walk in the Woods* is a great way to spend an afternoon. --Alix Wilber

#### From Publishers Weekly

Returning to the U.S. after 20 years in England, Iowa native Bryson decided to reconnect with his mother country by hiking the length of the 2100-mile Appalachian Trail. Awed by merely the camping section of his local sporting goods store, he nevertheless plunges into the wilderness and emerges with a consistently comical account of a neophyte woodsman learning hard lessons about self-reliance. Bryson (*The Lost Continent*) carries himself in an irresistibly bewildered manner, accepting each new calamity with wonder and hilarity. He reviews the characters of the AT (as the trail is called), from a pack of incompetent Boy Scouts to a perpetually lost geezer named Chicken John. Most amusing is his cranky, crude and inestimable companion, Katz, a reformed substance abuser who once had single-handedly "become, in effect, Iowa's drug culture." The uneasy but always entertaining relationship between Bryson and Katz keeps their walk interesting, even during the flat stretches. Bryson completes the trail as planned, and he records the misadventure with insight and elegance. He is a popular author in Britain and his impeccably graceful and witty style deserves a large American audience as well.

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#### From School Library Journal

YA--Leisurely walks in the Cotswolds during a 20-year sojourn in England hardly prepared Bryson for the rigors of the Appalachian Trail. Nevertheless, he and his friend Katz, both 40-something couch potatoes, set out on a cold March morning to walk the 2000-mile trail from Georgia to Maine. Overweight and out of shape, Katz jettisoned many of his provisions on the first day out. The men were adopted by Mary Ellen, a know-it-all hiker eager to share her opinions about everything. They finally eluded her, encountered some congenial hikers, and after eight days of stumbling up and down mountains in the rain and mud, came to Gatlinburg, TN. Acknowledging they would never make it the whole way, they decided to skip the rest of the Smokies and head for the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia--by car. Late that summer, for their last hike, the pair attempted to hike the Hundred Mile Wilderness in Maine, near the trail's end. They got separated and Bryson spent a day and night searching for his friend. When they finally were reunited, "...we decided to leave the endless trail and stop pretending we were mountain men because we weren't." This often hilarious

account of the foibles of two inept adventurers is sprinkled with fascinating details of the history of the AT, its wildlife, and tales of famous and not-so-famous hikers. In his more serious moments, Bryson argues for the protection of this fragile strip of wilderness. YAs who enjoy the outdoors, and especially those familiar with the AT, will find this travelogue both entertaining and insightful.

*Molly Connally, Kings Park Library, Fairfax County, VA*

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Deborah Lake:**

This A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is usually information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. This A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail without we recognize teach the one who examining it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't be worry A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail can bring whenever you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even cellphone. This A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail having good arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

#### **Veda Howard:**

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#### **Marge Lee:**

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**Jacquelynn Lavery:**

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